

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-16 and 18-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-16 and 18-21, 23 and 25 have been allowed.

By this Amendment, claims 22, 24 and 26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-16 and 18-21, 23 and 25 would be pending.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 22, 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kinba et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,597,999). Claims 22, 24 and 26 have been canceled without prejudice rendering this rejection moot, and placing the application in allowable form.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5153.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5153.

Respectfully submitted,
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